

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY France/Hungary

DATE DISTR. 2 Feb 1949

SUBJECT Dissolution of Hungarian House
Rescinded

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A6a

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO. 21 December 1948 - 5 January 1949

25X1X6

SUPPLEMENT TO

1. The decree dissolving La Maison Hongroise (Hungarian House or Association of Hungarian Democrats in France), which was issued on 20 December 1948, was revoked by the French Ministry of Interior on 5 January 1949 with the proviso that the leadership of the organization be changed. [REDACTED] The original decree of the Ministry of the Interior ordered La Maison Hongroise to cease all activities within thirty days. The reason given for the measure was that the interrogation of three striking Hungarian miners showed that they had received their instructions from La Maison Hongroise. Members of the Hungarian Legation in Paris and particularly Imre Gyomai, Press Attache, who is responsible for Hungarian House immediately mobilized all possible support throughout France to have the order rescinded.)
2. On instructions from the Hungarian Government, Count Michael Karolyi, a Communist and Hungarian Minister to France, saw Robert Schuman and notified him that, if the French Government continued to stick by the dissolution decree, the Hungarian Government would immediately retaliate by dissolving all French cultural institutions in Hungary. This would include dissolving all the existing French schools in Hungary and the French Cultural Institutes at the various universities of the country, as well as prohibiting the teaching of French in the Hungarian high-schools.
3. Late last year the Rumanian Government dissolved the French cultural institutions in Rumania and stopped the teaching of French in Rumanian schools. In view of the fact that similar developments in Hungary would be tantamount to removing completely the centuries-old French cultural influence from the whole of Eastern Europe, Schuman yielded and told Count Karolyi that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no knowledge of the decree of dissolution and did not agree with the Ministry of Interior on this point. A similar statement was also made in Budapest by the French Minister.
4. Despite the fact that the French Government has cancelled the dissolution of Hungarian House, French cultural institutions in Hungary will not be spared. Gyorgy Lukacs, 50, well-known Marxist philosopher and one of the most outstanding ideologists of the Hungarian Communist Party, presently in Paris to give several lectures at the Sorbonne, stated, in private conversations, that the lenient attitude of the Hungarian Government towards French cultural institutions in Hungary is drawing to an end. Pursuing its policy of purging Hungarian cultural life of all capitalistic influences, the Hungarian Government will soon have to proceed to the abolishment of all French cultural institutions in the country, and stop the teaching of the French language in Hungarian schools.

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NO CHANGE in CLASS.

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S

DDA Memo. 4 4-7-77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/1202

15 MAY 1975

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP82-00457R002300270010-0